

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A shelter frame, comprising:
at least first and second upwardly extending poles;
a linkage assembly linking the first and second poles, said linkage assembly having joints;
at least first and second fixed connectors pivotally securing first portions of said linkage assembly to said first and second poles respectively;
at least first and second sliding connectors pivotally securing second portions of said linkage assembly to said first and second poles respectively;
a connector locking assembly sized and shaped to lock said first sliding connector relative to said first fixed connector; and
a rolling element bearing interposed between mating members of said linkage assembly, wherein when said linkage assembly is folded and unfolded said mating members are operable to rotate about said rolling element bearing and cause movement of said rolling element bearing relative to said first fixed connector and said first sliding connector, and wherein said rolling element bearing moves in a plane that is substantially parallel to a plane that is defined by connection points of said first fixed connector, first sliding connector, and second fixed connector to said first and second poles respectively.
2. (Original) The shelter frame of claim 1 wherein said rolling element bearing is a roller bearing.
3. (Original) The shelter frame of claim 1 wherein said rolling element bearing is a thrust bearing.
4. (Original) The shelter frame of claim 1 further including at least a third and fourth upwardly extending poles linked by said linkage assembly.

5. (Original) The shelter frame of claim 1 further including canopy supports secured to said first and second poles.

6. (Currently Amended) A portable frame for creating a shelter, comprising:
a first and second pole;
a jointed linking arm connected to said first and second pole, said jointed linking arm having rolling element bearings located within the joints of said linking arm, wherein when said linking arm is folded and unfolded said rolling element bearings move in a plane that is substantially parallel to a plane that is defined by the connection points of said jointed linking arm to said first and second poles; and
a canopy support brace fixed to the top of said first and second poles.

7. (Original) The portable frame of claim 6 wherein said rolling element bearings are roller bearings.

8. (Original) The portable frame of claim 6 wherein said rolling element bearings are thrust bearings.

9. (Original) The portable frame of claim 6 further including a slideable locking connector and a fixed connector shaped and positioned to secure said jointed linking arm with said first and second poles.

10. (Original) The portable frame of claim 6 further comprising:
third and fourth upwardly extending poles;
a second jointed linking arm connected to said second and third poles;
a third jointed linking arm connected to said third and fourth poles; and
a fourth jointed linking arm connected to said first and fourth poles.

11. (Original) The portable frame of claim 6 wherein said canopy support brace includes a head connector and at least first and second canopy support rods, each support rod including a

first rod member pivotally secured to a second rod member, said first rod members also pivotally secured to a respective pole and said second rod members also pivotally secured to said head connector.

12. (Currently Amended) A portable shelter comprising:
a plurality of support legs;
a plurality of trusses connecting said support legs together;
said trusses comprised of a plurality of truss members interconnected to each other so as to create a truss that is selectively expandable and retractable;
a plurality of joints connecting said truss members together; and
a rolling element bearing being disposed in at least one of said plurality of joints of said truss members, said truss members operable to rotate about said rolling element bearing when said truss is expanded and retracted causing movement of the roller element bearing relative to said support legs, wherein said rolling element bearing moves in a plane that is substantially parallel to a plane that is defined by connection points of the truss associated with the rolling element bearing and the support legs that the truss connects.

13. (Original) A portable shelter according to claim 12 comprising:
a plurality of attachment points between said trusses and support legs; and
a rolling element bearing being disposed in at least one of said attachment points.

14. (Original) A portable shelter according to claim 12, further comprising:
a canopy support framework interconnected with said plurality of support legs;
a plurality of mounting locations wherein said canopy support framework interconnects with said support legs; and
a rolling element bearing being dispersed in at least one of said mounting locations.

15. (Original) A portable shelter according to claim 12, further comprising:
a canopy support framework interconnected with said plurality of support legs;

said canopy support framework including a plurality of interconnected canopy support members; and

a rolling element bearing disposed in at least one of a joint of said interconnected canopy support members.